

Claims

- [c1] A wireless vehicle communication update system for a vehicle comprising:
 - a vision sensor coupling a vehicle body of the vehicle and wirelessly detecting a vehicle information signal from an off-board vehicle setting update device having setting information for the vehicle; and
 - a vehicle controller updating at least one vehicle setting in response to said vehicle information signal.
- [c2] A system as in claim 1 wherein said vision sensor comprises at least one vision sensor selected from a camera, a charged-coupled device, a bar code reader, an infrared detector, and a photodiode.
- [c3] A system as in claim 1 wherein said vision sensor detects said vehicle information signal from a passive off-board vehicle setting update device.
- [c4] A system as in claim 1 wherein said vision sensor detects said information signal from an active off-board vehicle setting update device.
- [c5] A system as in claim 1 wherein said vision sensor in detecting said vehicle information signal detects at least

one bar code.

- [c6] A system as in claim 1 wherein said vision sensor detects said vehicle information signal from an off-board vehicle setting update system.
- [c7] A system as in claim 6 wherein said off-board vehicle setting update system comprises:
 - a transmitter transmitting said vehicle information signal in response to a pulse-coded signal;
 - a signal generator generating said pulse-coded signal;
 - and
 - an update controller determining said at least one vehicle setting to update and causing generation and transmission of said pulse-coded signal and said vehicle information signal in response to said at least one vehicle setting.
- [c8] A system as in claim 1 further comprising a signal processor receiving and formatting said vehicle information signal for said vehicle controller, said vehicle controller updating said at least one vehicle setting in response to said formatted vehicle information signal.
- [c9] A system as in claim 1 wherein said controller in updating said at least one setting comprises adjusting at least one setting selected from a memory setting, a switch

state, and a variable setting.

- [c10] A system as in claim 1 wherein said controller in updating said at least one setting updates a setting selected from at least one of a comfort and convenience setting, a vehicle performance setting, a vehicle safety system setting, a software setting, a communication setting, a diagnostic setting, a system configuration, a video setting, an audio setting, a dealer option setting, and a factory option setting.
- [c11] A system as in claim 1 further comprising an indicator coupled to said vehicle controller and indicating at least one current vehicle setting.
- [c12] A system as in claim further comprising an indicator coupled to said vehicle controller and indicating when said vehicle information signal is received.
- [c13] A method of wirelessly communicating vehicle updates to a vehicle comprising:
 - detecting a vehicle information signal from an off-board vehicle setting update device containing setting information for the vehicle; and
 - updating at least one vehicle setting in response to said vehicle information signal.
- [c14] A method as in claim 13 further comprising:

determining said at least one vehicle setting to update; determining vehicle identification; generating a coded signal in response said at least one vehicle setting and said vehicle identification; and updating said at least one vehicle setting in response to said coded signal.

- [c15] A method as in claim 13 further comprising:
determining said at least one vehicle setting to update;
determining vehicle identification;
generating a coded signal in response said at least one vehicle setting and said vehicle identification; and
updating an Internet site to contain an access to said coded signal.
- [c16] A method as in claim 13 wherein updating said at least one vehicle setting is performed in response to at least one bar code.
- [c17] A method as in claim 13 wherein updating said at least one vehicle setting is performed in response to at least one pulsed light signal.
- [c18] A method as in claim 13 wherein updating at least one vehicle setting is ceased when the vehicle is in a drive or reverse gear.
- [c19] A vehicle comprising:

a vision sensor wirelessly detecting a vehicle information signal from an off-board vehicle setting update device containing setting information for the vehicle and detecting an object and generating an object detection signal; and

a vehicle controller updating at least one vehicle setting in response to said vehicle information signal and generating a safety system signal in response to said object detection signal.

- [c20] A vehicle as in claim 19 further comprising at least one countermeasure, said vehicle controller enabling said at least one countermeasure in response to said safety system signal.